

BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

Annual Report for 1942 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD.

21st June, 1943.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1942.

As in the past three years the report is, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, presented in an abbreviated form and again this year, at the Minister's request, certain particulars regarding vital statistics have had to be omitted for reasons of national security.

All the usual particulars and statistics have been compiled and are kept for record purposes.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Census, 1931)	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to Rate Books	10,194
Rateable Value	£293,690
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,183

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

In addition to the tests carried out by the Board, periodical samples are taken by the Health Department and during the year all samples taken were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford.

There are only 94 houses not connected to the public sewers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of the Stanham Brook arising in an adjoining district has again had to be dealt with during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

HOUSING.

No new houses were built in the Borough during the year and the shortage of working class houses has become greater. In consequence, overcrowding has increased during the year.

Owing to the shortage of labour and the difficulties in obtaining materials the repair of existing houses and the remedying of defects and nuisances has been increasingly difficult during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Council are the Food and Drugs Authority under the above Act.

Mr. W. E. Balchin, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, is the Sampling Officer and particulars of the 94 samples taken are given in his report.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

DIPHThERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified (exclusive of Institutional cases) was 11, compared with 12 in 1941.

One case was notified from an Institution.

1,255 children were immunised during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified (exclusive of Institutional cases) was 50, as compared with 62 in 1941.

There were also 2 cases notified from Institutions.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

FOOD POISONING.

One case was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number of cases notified	21	13	2	6	42
Number of deaths	11	11	—	—	22

The following is a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year:

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number on Register at commencement of year	135	74	24	30	263
Number on Register at end of year	148	78	24	37	287

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

Number of new entrants during the year	381
Total number of children who attended during the year	872
Total attendance of mothers	5,661

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on Register during year	...	...	...	195
Number of new cases	...	...	...	160
Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	52
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	564
Average attendance per Clinic	...	...	...	10.76

BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

This Clinic was held monthly during the year. 58 new cases received advice and 158 attendances were made. Every care is taken to see that the objects of the Clinic are fulfilled.

MATERNITY HOME.

A scheme is in force whereby expectant mothers can be admitted to either the County Hospital or the Livingstone Hospital for their confinements. Financial assistance is given according to the income of the applicants.

No cases were admitted under the scheme during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Nine cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year from the County Hospital and two from the Livingstone Hospital.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

In connection with the ancillary services of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, 12 children received orthopædic treatment and 4 mothers dental treatment during the year.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS, 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1942 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows:—

397 lbs. dried milk free.
174 „ „ „ half-price.

The distribution of Liquid Milk free, or at a reduced price, is undertaken during the war by the Food Office.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carried out the duties of Infant Protection Officer during the year.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year	...	100
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year	...	6
Number of foster children on register at end of year	...	14

HOME VISITATION.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of new-born infants visited	574
Number of visits to infants under one year	1,683
Number of children on register over one year	1,627
Number of visits to children over one year	3,551
Total visits made by Health Visitors during year	5,768

In addition to these visits the following have been paid:—

Ante-natal visits	105
Death enquiries	12

DAY NURSERIES.

The first War-time Day Nursery was opened at 21, West Hill, early in the new year.

Preparations for the establishment of a second Nursery at Oakfield Lane were made during the year, but the opening did not take place till 1943.

Among the various additional duties carried out by the Public Health Department during the war are the issue of Supplementary Coupons to expectant mothers, the issue of babies' anti-gas helmets and the exchange of helmets for Mickey Mouse respirators on the children reaching the age of eighteen months.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on some of the matters relating to the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1942.

General.

Number of cases of infectious disease investigated	104
Number of premises disinfected: Infectious disease	75
Vermin	17
Number of sets of bedding disinfected	41
Number of houses inspected under Housing Regulations	Nil
Number of Notices served: Preliminary	355
Statutory	2
Number of drains tested: Water 52, Smoke 28, Total	80

Supervision of Milk Supplies.

Samples of Milk taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders:—

3 Tuberculin Tested, 5 Pasteurized. All complied with the Regulations; except one sample which was delayed in transit.

Of the 53 samples of milk taken in connection with the milk supply to Schools in the district, only one failed to comply with the standard.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING.

During the year 94 samples were obtained (55 formal and 39 informal) and were submitted to the Public Analyst. The following table shows the results of the analysis of these samples:—

						Not		Genuine.		Remarks.
						Formal.	Informal.	Genuine.	Genuine.	
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	41	4	44	1	44 were certified as of good quality. One was 12% deficient in fat. Proceedings taken and conviction obtained.
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	—	
Cornflour	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Curry Powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3	—	
Dried Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Drugs:										
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Aspirin Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Bi-carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Glycerine of Thymol	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Tincture of Iodine	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Fish Roll	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	1	1	Error in labelling. (Warning given).
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—	
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	—	
Ground Ginger	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Lemon Substitute	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	Not submitted to Analyst.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—	
Meat Extract	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—	
Mustard	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Orange Juice Substitute	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Pepper	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—	
Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Sage and Onion Stuffing	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Saccharin Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4	—	
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	—	
TOTALS						55	39	91	2	

UN SOUND FOOD.

The total quantity of unsound food destroyed or sent for salvage during the year was 2 tons 3 qrs. 1 lb., as follows:—

Beef: 7cwt. 3qrs. 13lbs. (including one tubercular carcase and offal).

Mutton: 1qr. 9lbs.

Pork: 1cwt. 1qr. 4lbs. (including eight tubercular heads).

Poultry: 9lbs.

Bacon: 14lbs.

Fish: 11cwts. 3qrs. 20lbs.

Tinned Goods: 15cwts. 15lbs. (consisting of: meat 285 tins, fish 92 tins, fruit 200 tins, vegetables 133 tins, milk 507 tins).

Eggs: 1qr. 8lbs.

Cheese: 1cwt. 1qr.

Pearl Barley: 1cwt. 16lbs.

Miscellaneous: 1cwt. 1qr. 5lbs.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, against a dairyman for selling milk which the Public Analyst certified was 12 per cent. deficient in fat. A fine of £1 and £1 1s. 0d. costs was imposed.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

